

Sermon Notes

"Sin is Serious, Hell is Horrific"

Mark 9:42-50

May 31, 2026

6. Why did Jesus use extreme examples in this context (9:43-48)? Christian history has known some individuals to take Jesus' words here quite literally. Why is cutting off a hand or foot or plucking out an eye not radical enough a way to deal with sin? What concrete action can you take this week to avoid a sin that you have struggled with in the recent past?

7. How did Jesus describe hell? How does this confront common perceptions in our culture, or even in our church culture?

8. How can this passage motivate us to share our faith with unbelievers?

9. Why is "saltiness" necessary in a Christian's life? How should we act so as not to lose our "saltiness" (9:50)? What does this have to do with being at peace with one another?

Let's Pray:

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 05-31-2026

Questions adapted from James Galvin, ed., et al., New Testament Lesson Maker, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, p. 87; Lyman Coleman, et al., eds., Serendipity New Testament for Groups, Serendipity House, Littleton, CO, 1986, p. 108-9; James Hoover, Mark: Follow Me, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 1999, pp. 49; Ted Dorman, Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., Life Change Series: Mark, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1995, pp. 96-97.

Getting Started:

1. What are your favorite seasonings? How do you use them?

Digging Deeper:

Read Mark 9:30-50.

2. To whom did Jesus refer when He spoke of “little ones” (9:42)? What contextual clues help you decide this?
3. How do you think a Christian can cause others to sin?
4. What connection do you see between the “one-up-manship” of the Twelve (9:33-34, 38) and the danger of causing believers in Jesus to sin (9:42)?
5. What was Jesus’ attitude toward sin (9:43-47)? What should be our attitude toward sin?